Application No. 10/656,254
Reply to Notice of Allowance of September 3, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims 1-22 remain active in this application, Claims 7, 9, 12, 13, 18 and 20 having been amended by the present amendment.

The present Substitute Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.114 is responsive to discussions with the Examiner on March 18, 2004 and corrects the sequential labeling of elements in the claims, so that continuity in numbering is maintained from each independent claim to the dependent claims in the chain of dependency for a respective independent claim. No new matter has been added and no new issues are believed to be raised.¹

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and a renewed formal allowance of Claims 1-22 are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER/& NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record

Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

I:ATTY/EHK/AMEND-RESPONSES/0039/245/242451US-SUPP.RCEAMT.DOC

Also, relative to the Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.114 filed on Dec. 29, 2004, the present Substitute Amendment, at the Examiner's telephone request, corrects the labeling in the listing of claims of Claims 8 as being "Original" and of Claims 20 as being "Ourrently Amended", and in the remarks corrects the identification of the amended claims as being Claims 7, 9, 12, 13, 18 and 20.